

## BURIED UNDER RUINS!

## SCORES OF LIVES LOST BY A BOILER EXPLOSION.

The Central Park Hotel of Hartford Torn to Pieces.

Guests and Employees Buried Beneath the Debris—The Work of Rescue—Heart-Rendering Scenes as Bodies are Taken Out One by One.

HARTFORD, CONN., Feb. 18.—The shock of a tremendous explosion awoke sleepers for blocks around the corner of High and Albany streets about 5 o'clock this morning. On that corner stood the Park Central Hotel, a five-story brick structure, about thirty feet front and 100 feet deep. The first to arrive on the scene found this building a heap of ruins, from which issued smoke and steam in dense clouds, and the spectators were appalled by the shrieks and groans of many human beings who were trapped in the mass of timber and masonry, from which flames were already bursting. A general alarm immediately summoned the fire department, and an immense crowd, attracted by the explosion and the fire-alarm, soon packed the streets in the vicinity. At first the firemen entirely prevented any attempt to rescue the victims, and it was not until a flood of water had been poured upon the ruins that the work could be prosecuted. A few dead or dying persons were taken from the edge of the debris, however, within an hour after the explosion. The force of the explosion threw a bed with a sleeping woman upon it far into the street, while one of the heavy doors of the house landed a block away.

## REACHING THE VICTIMS.

By 9 o'clock the flames were so far subdued that the rescuers were enabled to get at some of the victims. Some were pinned beneath heavy timbers, upon which rested masses of masonry rendering the work of rescue extremely hazardous. The report that members of the Goodman Blind Theatrical Company were in the hotel is incorrect. Mr. E. P. Humphrey, business manager of the company, says some of the company applied at the hotel last night for accommodations, but could not get them and went elsewhere. He has just received word from a member of his company and all are safe. The fact that they were refused accommodation does not indicate that the hotel was crowded, but simply because they were desiring rooms for two or three days could not be furnished on account of previous engagements of apartments by legislators. The dead body of William H. Bull of this city was taken out at about 10 o'clock. The bodies of Louis H. Brown, stage dealer, Hartford, wife and child, were discovered at about the same time. Harry Stille, a commercial traveler, who roomed on the third floor, was taken from the ruins considerably bruised, but he remarked that he was "all right."

## A FAVORITE RESORT.

The house had accommodations for about 100 guests and was a favorite over-Sunday stopping place for commercial travelers. An intending guest, who applied for a room late Saturday evening, was informed that they were full, so it seems probable that at least eighty persons were in the house at the time of the explosion, of which perhaps twenty escaped uninjured. Those were mostly employees who occupied an annex or wing of the house extending to the east and which has not yet fallen, although in a shaky condition. Among those known to be buried in the ruins are the Rev. L. T. Perrin and wife of New Britain, Conn.; W. Whiting, attorney of the Hartford Life and Annuity Insurance Company, and wife, and Wellington Ketchum, proprietor of the hotel, wife and son.

About six persons have been sent to the hospital. Owing to the destruction of the register of the hotel the names of many of the guests cannot be ascertained. The catastrophe is generally supposed to have been caused by an explosion of the boiler, although some doubt has been expressed on this point, as the building had been popularly supposed to be unsafe. It was built on "made" ground.

The street department and the railroad have enlisted four forces of laborers with picks, etc., and the work of searching for bodies is now going forward in a systematic manner. At 10 o'clock the "military call" was sounded on the fire bell, calling out the military companies to assist in preserving order and assist in the work of rescue.

## Another Account.

HARTFORD, CONN., Feb. 18.—It is the most horrible catastrophe that has ever been known in Hartford, and when the list of dead and wounded is completed it will be found to be a horror equal to any that has taken place within the last half century. The loss of life is believed to be less than fifty, but it cannot be definitely stated as the night-clerk, Mr. Terry, is among the missing and his books are destroyed. Among those missing are George S. Ketchum, brother of the proprietor of the hotel. Rev. Dr. Perrin, secretary of the Congregational tract society, and wife; W. Tilton, commercial traveler. Mr. Stille, safe agent. Max Galdy, editor of the Hartford Evening Citizen, night porter. George J. Engler, clerk, Hartford. Edward Perry, night clerk of the hotel. It is now under the impression that the bodies of Mr. Brown, wife and child, have not been recovered.

George Ketchum, brother of the proprietor, also in the list. Mr. Pendleton of Indiana, who was soliciting subscriptions to complete the monument to Thomas A. Hendricks, University, was badly burned and both legs broken; Michael Kerrigan, Unionville, badly bruised.

The hotel was built about fifteen years ago, and cost, with furniture, \$120,000. The soil was soft, and although the building was carefully built it soon settled badly. About five years ago Mr. Ketchum took the lease, and renovated and refurnished the house. Insurance is \$28,000.

It is stated that no fragment of the boiler has yet been found, which sustains against the theory of a boiler explosion.

Nothing had been seen or heard of the above at 5:30 o'clock, and they are believed to be killed and buried in the ruins. Nearly all the help employed in the hotel were saved. They occupied the sleeping apartments in the east wing of the annex, which

was only partly wrecked by the explosion. The bodies of the children, however, were not seen. The entire main section of the hotel was gone, only a pile of brick and timbers remaining. The scenes about the ruins were horrible.

## A TERRIBLE SCENE.

In the center of the spot where the building stood were a man, his wife and a little child. The bodies of the children were finally laid back into the flames and died in plain sight of the spectators. The little one cried for help, but the man and the woman uttered not a word, but, embraced in each other's arms, met death bravely. Away out near the annex the shrieks of a woman caused the blood of the people looking on to turn cold as they saw a young girl lying with her body half across a beam, a look of agony on her face. Finally the support fell and she disappeared from sight.

Wm. Seymour and Wm. Skinner were employed in the boiler-room. Neither of them could be found this morning, and it is supposed they perished. Eddie Hoyle was last seen in the hotel. He is probably dead, and is supposed to be among the children who died in the street in their night clothes.

Charles W. Webster, of Webster & Mather, insurance agents, who were in the hotel, and among the missing. Mr. Pond of Indiana, the Democratic speaker, was one of the guests at the hotel, and is supposed to be among the missing. Amos Risley and Alexander Thayer were in charge of the boiler. It was reported that they were not killed, but there are parties who say they have seen both men since the disaster.

## JUSTICE MERRICK'S SUCCESSOR.

The Bar Association do Not Want Mr. Stevenson.

The Bar Association, which has called attention to itself by making a protest to the Judge of the Superior Court, and against the confirmation of Assistant Postmaster-General Stevenson appointed to the vacancy on the District Bench, are unanimous on one point. They don't want Mr. Stevenson. Not because he is Mr. Stevenson, but because he is not a District man. A non-resident by any other name would be quite as objectionable. They have not gone far, however, to settle on who they do want. It is something like the spider's prayer for a husband. They ain't particular so long as he's a District man.

When the last vacancy occurred petitions were in circulation in which Auditor James G. Payne and Mr. Leigh Robinson were named as candidates. They have not gone far, however, to settle on who they do want. It is something like the spider's prayer for a husband. They ain't particular so long as he's a District man.

Both these gentlemen are Democrats, and the opinion is expressed with some confidence that the Senate will not confirm any appointment under the present Administration. They rely on the Republican President to give them the kind of a Judge they want.

A Street Railroad's Report.

The speaker laid before the House today the report of the Washington and Georgetown Street Railroad, showing its receipts and disbursements for 1887. The receipts were \$67,323.41, which, together with \$20,610.33 coming over from the preceding year, makes a total of \$87,933.74. The disbursements were \$50,948.36, leaving a balance of \$36,985.38. The law incorporating the road requires an annual report to Congress.

## Requests From Legislators.

The presiding officer laid before the Senate today a memorial of the Legislature of Montana, praying action on the bill to permit aliens to purchase mineral lands.

## WORK FOR "FEMALE PEDS."

## A Walking-Match Between Women at the Old Skating-Hut.

Work was begun this morning at the old roller skating rink on New York avenue, making it ready for the female walking-match this afternoon. A sawdust track was laid around the raised platform in the center of the big building and a double row of benches was erected on each side. A crowd of hands have been engaged to furnish music in the rink and on the stand, and some prizes have been on exhibition in Jacobs' window. Twenty women are announced to compete for the prizes, and the match will be held in the Madison Square Garden, in New York, in April.

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## CONGRESS TO-DAY.

## WHAT COURSE WAS TAKEN WITH DIFFERENT MEASURES.

The Investigation of the Supervising Architect's Office—Presidential Nominations—Report on the Condition of the Georgetown Railroad.

In the Senate to-day Mr. Vest entered a motion to reconsider the vote by which the conference report on the District bill was agreed to, and said he did so for the purpose of submitting some remarks later. Mr. Palmer offered resolutions extending the thanks of the Congress to the State of Michigan for the statue of Lewis and Clark, which was unveiled today in Statuary Hall, and proceeded to address the Senate.

## HOUSE.

In the House to-day, on motion of Mr. Hatch of Missouri, the substitute for the bill regulating the sale of compound land, which was presented last July, was taken from the House calendar and referred to the Committee of the Whole.

The bill to provide for the better protection of the fur seals and salmon fisheries in Alaska was called up by Mr. Dunn, who explained its provisions.

## Location of Fort Omaha.

The Secretary of War sent to the Senate today an answer to the resolution of that body calling for correspondence and reports in relation to the re-location of Fort Omaha, Neb.

The Secretary of the Treasury to-day appointed Joseph A. Ellis a storekeeper at Worthington, Ky.

## THE FREER INVESTIGATION.

## Colonel Fister's Case Continued by the Senate Committee.

The Senate Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds held a meeting this morning to consider the case of recalcitrant witnesses in the Freer investigation. Thomas A. Fister refused at the last session of the committee to answer questions concerning the solicitation of contributions for political purposes in the Treasury Department.

His refusal was based on the claim that the questions concerned a private matter, and that he was not bound to answer. The committee decided that he must answer the questions. He still refused. Senator Spooner therefore called together the full committee this morning to pass judgment upon the case.

The committee met in secret session and remained in consultation for nearly an hour preparing a list of questions calling for the information desired by Senator Spooner for the subcommittee. Mr. Fister and the committee's stenographer were called in, and the questions were formally put to Fister. All the members of the committee were present except Senator Quay.

A severer will be laid in the future, under the provisions of the compulsory permit system.

The Commissioners have sent a circular letter to the heads of the various charitable institutions in the District asking for any information they may have concerning the exclusion of persons therefrom on account of color. This information is desired by the Commissioners that they may answer resolutions of the Senate.

The Commissioners have made an order changing the alms in square 362.

The Columbia Railroad Company and the Herd Company have asked for permission to put bells on their houses during the inauguration ceremonies to warn the crowd of the approach of their vehicles.

## THE NATIONAL LEAGUE.

## It asks for Mr. Webb's Membership and Opposes His Confirmation.

Commissioner Webb stated to a Committee reporter to-day in regard to the action of the Republican National League in adopting resolutions protesting against his confirmation by the Senate that he was surprised at their action because he signed the club's constitution in good faith some time ago, and has been a member in good standing ever since. He also said that he heard that a member of the club who was compelled to leave the meeting on the night on which the resolutions were adopted, had taken care to make no such action would be taken, and he would have remained and raised the voice against it. As evidence of his good faith, he produced a card which he had given to the club, and stated that on receiving it he paid his dues.

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL LEAGUE. WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 23, 1889. Hon. Wm. R. Webb:

It is earnestly desired that you renew your former interest in the League and unite your assistance with that of the other members in making the League a permanent organization so necessary and creditable, and one which local as well as national in scope, and which will be a permanent and useful institution.

In behalf of the Republican National League.

Yours respectfully,

E. F. BEALE, Chairman.

A. P. FARMER, J. Committee.

JOHN E. COOK, Secretary.

THE COURT RECORD.

COURT IN GENERAL TERM.—Chief Justice Hughes, James, Cox and Montgomery.

Recessed, ordered to be spread on the minutes of the Court. Gilbert vs. Morgan et al.; opinion of Justice James; motion to rehear overruled. Fraser vs. District of Columbia; opinion of Justice Hughes; decision below affirmed. United States ex rel. Miller vs. Blair et al.; opinion of Justice Hughes; decision below affirmed. United States ex rel. Miller vs. Blair et al.; opinion of Justice Hughes; decision below affirmed.

W. A. Scott, Springfield, Mass.; Thomas Murray, New Brunswick, N. J.; J. D. Robinson, Chicago, Ill.; John Rankin, New York, N. Y.; and C. C. Gray, Philadelphia, Pa., are at the National.

J. B. Sully, Philadelphia; C. L. Shannon, Cincinnati; F. V. McCulloch, Chicago; H. A. Burr, Detroit, Mich.; and M. Lubell, New York, are at the National.

D. H. Chambers, Pittsburg, Pa.; S. F. Cobbs, Danville, Va.; J. M. Harrison, Easton, Pa.; and C. C. Gray, Philadelphia, Pa., are at the National.

C. J. Boyce, Jr., New York; James Clark, San Francisco; Mr. J. H. Barton, Jr., and C. O. Shepard, New York, are at Chamberlain.

George B. N. Tower, B. E. Devor and R. Mason, Jr., New York; G. E. Bonedict, Burlington, Vt.; J. J. McDermott, Springfield, Mass.; and C. C. Gray, Philadelphia, Pa., are at the National.

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James C. Cass, Pittsburg; W. J. Courtney, Cleveland, Ohio; and Milton P. Bagg, New York, are at the Arlington.

John H. Flagg, New York; Leo Schott and Rudolph Hynicka, Cincinnati, are at the Normandie.

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## LATE DEPARTMENT NEWS.

## Colonel Yard's Death.

A dispatch was received at the War Department this morning announcing the death of Colonel John E. Yard of the Eighteenth Infantry, who died yesterday of pneumonia at Hays City, Kan. By the death of Colonel Yard the following promotions will be made: Lieutenant Colonel Lazelle, Twenty-third Infantry, War Record office, will succeed Colonel Yard, and Major Hamilton, 26th Infantry, will fill the vacancy of lieutenant colonel.

## Whereabouts of the Ships.

The Navy Department has been informed of the arrival of the U. S. steamer Fortune at Portsmouth, Va., from Washington; the arrival of the U. S. steamer Vandall at Honolulu on her way to Asia from Mare Island Navy-Yard, California, and of the sailing of the U. S. steamer Galeana from Cape Haytien on a cruise south.

## The President has approved the following bills:

An act for the relief of William H. Robertson and Edward J. Heddon, late Collector of Customs for the district of New York, in an act in relation to and fallen timber on Indian land; an act to authorize and provide for the disposition of the fur seals and salmon fisheries in Alaska; an act for the relief of Charles F. Swain, master of the bark Philena.

## General Notes.

The national bank notes received to-day by the United States Treasurer for redemption amount to \$305,389.

The Secretary of the Treasury to-day appointed Joseph A. Ellis a storekeeper at Worthington, Ky.

The President's reception this afternoon was largely attended.

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## THE DISTRICT GOVERNMENT.

## The Calling of Messrs. C. Parker and P. N. Dwyer called attention to the alleged illegal occupation of H street, between South Capitol and First streets, southeast, by the tracks of the R. and P. Railroad Company.

has been referred to Attorney Riddle, and he reported on it as follows: "These South Capitol people have been told several times that when any suitable man will come forward and make the necessary affidavits, this office will prosecute any case against any railroad company. This has been published many times in the city papers. No one thus far has presented himself. Let this man come forward or hold his peace and tongue."

"A. G. RIDDLE, Attorney."

The Commissioners have written a letter to the Postmaster-General, calling his attention to the fact that, on last Friday night, between 11 and 12 o'clock, a large quantity of water into his building was covered by testing the supply main. They consider that this is a waste of Potomac water, and suggest the closing of the supply on the higher levels, that future waste be prevented.

An effort is being made by the Commissioners to have the price paid for sweeping the alleys restored to the original rates. They state that it was only intended to reduce the rate for "sweeping, sweeping and cleaning the streets."

Mr. A. S. Taylor has suggested that a regulation be made governing the tearing down of old buildings, so as to protect the surrounding property from dirt and dust.

Hereafter there will be only fifty-two fire hydrants used by the street-sweeping contractors, and they will be designated and marked with the letter S.

The commission of Ralph Hunter, the colored special policeman, has been revoked.

The Commissioners made the following promotions and appointments in the Police Department to-day on the recommendation of Major Moore, Acting Sergeant Shillings, and the Police Board: First class private, signed; Second Class Private H. C. Volkman, promoted to be acting sergeant; First Class Private Coghill, promoted to be a second class private, and P. J. Hayden, appointed a private of the first class.

The parties who purchased the privilege to erect a reviewing stand for the inauguration procession at the Botanical Garden, discovered that they would not be allowed to trespass on the ground, and only two feet on the sidewalk. The Commissioners have waived their regulations in this case and allowed the stand to extend ten feet over the sidewalk, provided there is a clear space eight feet in height between the pavement and the stand.

The Commissioners have commissioned as special policemen fifty-seven watchmen at the State, War and Navy Department.

Building Inspector Entwistle has so thoroughly reviewed that he would have been at his office to-day had it not rained.

A sewer will be laid in square 749, under the provisions of the compulsory permit system.

The Commissioners have sent a circular letter to the heads of the various charitable institutions in the District asking for any information they may have concerning the exclusion of persons therefrom on account of color. This information is desired by the Commissioners that they may answer resolutions of the Senate.

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